

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BOMBAY 02641 011448Z
ACTION SCS-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 PPTE-00 CA-01 PER-05

A-01 MED-03 HEW-06 /042 W

-----046293 020540Z /20

R 010649Z NOV 77

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7723

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS BOMBAY 2641

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC

SUBJ: YELLOW FEVER REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY INTO INDIA

1. CONGEN IS BEING CALLED ON WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY TO ASSIST AMERICAN CITIZENS ARRIVING IN INDIA BY AIR AT BOMBAY WITHOUT VALID YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATES. ALTHOUGH NOT NORMALLY REQUIRED FOR ENTRY INTO INDIA, VALID CERTIFICATES ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL PERSONS ARRIVING FROM COUNTRIES WHERE YELLOW FEVER IS KNOWN TO EXIST. (ALMOST ALL PROBLEMS THUS FAR HAVE BEEN WITH AMERICANS COMING FROM KENYA, BUT REQUIREMENT IS ALSO IN EFFECT FOR PASSENGERS COMING FROM COUNTRIES IN YELLOW FEVER ENDEMIC ZONES IN AFRICA AND SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA.) ANY PERSON (INCLUDING INFANTS) ARRIVING WITHOUT A CERTIFICATE WITHIN SIX DAYS OF DEPARTURE FROM OR TRANSIT THROUGH AN INFECTED AREA WILL BE ISOLATED UP TO SIX DAYS AT QUARANTINE HOSPITAL NEAR AIRPORT BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO ENTER INDIA. THE HOSPITAL, ALTHOUGH FAIRLY CLEAN BY LOCAL STANDARDS, IS FOUND UNACCEPTABLE BY MANY AMERICANS.

2. TRANSIT PASSENGERS ARRIVING FROM YELLOW FEVER ENDEMIC COUNTRIES WITHOUT VALID CERTIFICATES MUST REMAIN IN AIRPORT
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TRANSIT LOUNGE (WHERE FOOD IS NOT AVAILABLE) UNTIL DEPARTURE OF CONNECTING FLIGHT, WHICH IS SOMETIMES DELAYED BY UP TO 24 HOURS. CONGEN IS OFTEN ABLE TO ARRANGE FOR SUCH PERSONS TO EAT AND REST AT QUARANTINE HOSPITAL BUT, AS NOTED, MANY AMERICANS ARE NOT PLEASED WITH FACILITIES THERE. IN ADDITION, SOME OF THESE PASSENGERS HAVE BEEN REQUIRED BY AIR CARRIERS TO SIGN IDEMNITY BONDS COVERING COST OF QUARANTINE IF COUNTRY TO

WHICH THEY ARE TRAVELLING HAS SIMILAR YELLOW FEVER REGULATIONS.

3. WE URGE THE DEPARTMENT TO BRING THIS PROBLEM TO THE ATTENTION OF OTHER FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS AS WELL AS HEALTH TRAVEL ORGANIZATIONS IN U.S. AMERICANS FACED WITH THESE DIFFICULTIES ON ARRIVAL IN BOMBAY ARE UNDERSTANDABLY UPSET THAT CONGEN CANNOT PROVIDE ANY REAL ASSISTANCE AND THAT HEALTH PUBLICATIONS, TRAVEL AGENTS, ETC., FAIL TO GIVE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE INFORMATION CONCERNING CURRENT HEALTH REGULATIONS.

4. FOR NAIROBI: WE SUGGEST YOU APPRISE LOCAL AIRLINE OFFICIALS OF THE INDIAN YELLOW FEVER REGULATIONS AND URGE THEM TO CHECK WHETHER PASSENGERS COMING FROM NAIROBI TO INDIA HAVE VALID CERTIFICATES.
ROSENTHAL

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